



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

May 20, 2005

Robert T. Jacobs
Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30367

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Ouachita National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan.

EPA classified your DEIS and proposed action as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections". The DEIS is consistent with the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA. Alternative E is the preferred alternative. This alternative would be a greater emphasis on active management for ecological conditions to sustain diversity and forest health in the Pine-Oak Forest, Pine-Oak Woodland, Shoirtleaf Pine/Bluestem Grass Woodland, West Gulf Coastal Plain Pine-Hardwood Forest, and Ouachita Dry to Mesic Oak Forest.

Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at 214-665-7451 or by e-mail at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Rhonda M. Smith
Acting Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination